

REMARKS

The Office action of July 14, 2003 has been received and its contents carefully noted.

Claims 1-7, and 9-20 are pending in the continuation application. Claim 8 has been canceled. Claims 1, 15, and 18 have been amended.

Claims 1-7, and 9-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being unpatentable over Wakisawa et al. ("Wakisawa").(U.S. Patent No. 6,002,810). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections, and request allowance thereof in the continuation prosecution application for the following reasons.

The Claims are Patentable Over the Cited References

Claims 1-7, and 9-20 are not anticipated by Wakisawa

Claims 1-7, and 9-20 stand rejected under § 102(b) in view of Wakisawa. Applicants strongly contend that Wakisawa fails to disclose the features recited in these claims such as detecting pixel-to-pixel variations in the brightness levels in at least one direction in the input image, thereby generating high spatial frequency information and a variable zoom ratio, and setting interpolation points with spacing varying according to the high spatial frequency information and the variable zoom ratio.

Wakisawa does not disclose this patentably distinct feature of

detecting pixel-to-pixel variations in the brightness levels to generate high spatial frequency information and a variable zoom ratio, and setting interpolation points with spacing varying according to the high spatial frequency information and the variable zoom ratio. In contrast, Wakisawa solely describes a resolution conversion system and method that only determines whether to place interpolation points on a straight line or curve function using a fixed, preset magnification factor (zoom ratio) and preset spacing for the interpolation points (see FIGs. 14, 21-22; col. 8, lines 12-16; col. 9, lines 43-47).

Specifically, Wakisawa discloses that "...the original image is converted into an enlarged image by generating pixels to be interpolated to increase the number of pixels...in this process, the number of pixels to be interpolated and the position where they are interpolated are determined in advance in accordance with a magnification factor for each pixel block unit having a predetermined number of pixels." (see FIG. 21; col. 8, lines 1-16).

Furthermore, Wakisawa discloses that "...in this case, it is understood that the pixel block unit is magnified 1.625 times...the position where the interpolation pixels are generated...can be determined in advance, in accordance with the kind of image information, such as moving picture or still picture." (see FIG. 22; col. 9, lines 14-15, 43-47). Furthermore, Wakisawa expressly discloses using a fixed, predetermined magnification factor for a

line of interpolation pixels as shown in FIG. 7. Thus, instead of setting interpolation points with spacing varying according to the high spatial frequency information and the variable zoom ratio, Wakisawa in contrast generates interpolation points in with preset (predetermined) spacing in accordance with a fixed, predetermined zoom ratio (magnification factor). As disclosed throughout the reference, Wakisawa generates interpolation points with preset spacing (locations) based on the predetermined magnification factor (varying only whether to place the points on a straight line or curve function) and therefore does not disclose the recited feature of setting interpolation points with spacing varying according to the high spatial frequency information and the variable zoom ratio.

Therefore, it is clear that Wakisawa does not disclose the recited feature making the claimed invention patentably distinct and non-obvious from the cited reference.

Conclusion

In view of the amendments and remarks submitted above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the remaining claims are allowable and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees

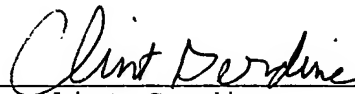
required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 to discuss the application.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH, & BIRCH, LLP

By:



Clint Gerdine

(Reg. No. 41,035)

MKM/CAG:tm
1190-0584P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
Phone: (703) 205-8000